

East County Citizens Advisory Board (ECCAB)
Eastern Montgomery Regional Center
3300 Briggs Chaney Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904

Wednesday, October 4, 2017

MEETING SUMMARY

Members Present: Roy Chavera, Samantha Blizzard, Peter Myo Khin, Jerold Samet, Jeffrey Bond, Richard Romer, Fisseha Adugna, Hildegard Sylla, Sharon Brown, Curtis Watkins, Fatmata Barrie.

Guests Present: Atlarge Councilmember Hans Riemer, Ed Weiler, Aaron Rice, Dan Wilhelm, Clare Nolan, Lee Yaffe-Stark, Mensah Adjogah, Paul Geller, Harriette Quinn, Margaret Goergen-Rood, Len Newman, Mara Parker

Staff Present: Montgomery County East County Regional Office Director Jewru Bandeh.

Community attendee(s) were provided the opportunity to raise concerns that they wanted to have addressed at the appropriate time during the meeting. An attendee expressed concerns regarding parked vehicles with expired plates and cars being vandalized.

Approval of the September 6, 2017 Meeting Summary: A motion was made to approve the September 6, 2017 summary. It was seconded and approved unanimously.

Presentations by Special Guests: **Robin Riley**, Chief, Montgomery County Dept. of Recreation, **Kenneth Flemmer**, Executive Director, Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington (ACSGW), **Monica Jeffries**, President, Strathmore Hall Foundation, and **Adrienne Clutter**, Recreation Department Program Manager presented an update of the Food, Fun, Fitness, and Fundamentals Summer Camp held at Galway Elementary School this Summer, summarized as follows:

- The camp provided an affordable opportunity for underprivileged kids living east of Route 29 to have a high-quality summer experience. The camp was a seven-week program that took a holistic approach focusing on academics, recreation, the arts (with Strathmore), wellness and nutrition.
- The program is the result of a partnership between the ACSGW, the East County Regional Services Center, Montgomery County Recreation, and Manna Food Center and the Montgomery County Public Schools (Galway Elementary School).
- The camp addresses the needs of the community by alleviating the issues of food insecurity, summer learning, summer day care and financial stress.
- The value of the services provided by the camp is an economic benefit of \$1,500 per child attendee. Benefits delivered include 2,240 SSL hours for students, 800 academic hours with measurable benefits, jobs for TeenWorks employees, and over 8,000 meals.
- The arts program provided by Strathmore helps children gain confidence.

Questions were posed to and addressed by the presenters and included discussions on funding to expand the program to other schools in East County, job opportunities and parental interest and involvement.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to provide ECCAB support for the Food, Fun, Fitness and Fundamentals Summer Camp, the topic to be addressed by the Quality of Life Committee.

Hans Riemer, Montgomery County At-Large Councilmember, gave a presentation on areas of interest to the East County Region, which included the following topics:

- Hans' primary focus areas are:
 - Inclusion – striving to be a dynamic, changing community with affordable housing in all areas of the county;
 - Opportunities for Children – Early Education & Head Start, improving MCPS, afterschool programming for disadvantaged kids;
 - STEM Education – there is a need county wide for jobs such as cybersecurity;
 - Innovation – projects like US 29 Bus Rapid Transit.

Questions were posed and discussion ensued which included the following topics:

- Possible location of Amazon's east coast headquarters to the Montgomery County area;
- The delay of the renovation of Hillandale local park due to county borrowing constraints which has upset many residents;
- Need for Worksource Montgomery to place resources in the East County;
- Budget for affordable housing and the need to address crime issues in these neighborhoods.

Old Business: ECCAB Chair Peter Myo Khin presented for ratification ECCAB letters to the County Executive regarding Short-Term Rentals and Selection of Voting Centers, which letters were approved.

Montgomery County East County Regional Office Director Jewru Bandeh reported that nine new ECCAB members were slated for approval by the County Council in the following week. He also brought to the attention of meeting attendees several upcoming events, including the East County Regional Job Fair on November 2, 2017, Burtonsville Commercial Revitalization Program Celebration and Taste of Burtonsville on October 7, 2017 and the Chamayya Unity Walk on October 8, 2017.

Update from Montgomery County 3rd and 4th Districts Police Department: MCPD Commander Marcus Jones reported that there were two recent shootings in the 3rd District, one of which resulted in homicide. He also reported that the police room in the old substation section of the building will be vacating the (East County Regional Services) Center. Lt. Joe Onderko reported on residential burglaries in the 4th District and stated that a suspect was in custody. The question raised by a community member regarding the parking of abandoned and expired tag vehicles was responded to with a commitment by Commander Marcus Jones to investigate the problem.

Update from Council Staff: Mara Parker briefed the board on the following upcoming Council events: Open House (Oct. 14), Prescription Take-Back Day (Oct. 28), hearing on Worksource Montgomery (scheduled for Nov. 2) and Council hearing on minimum wage (Oct. 7).

ECCAB Sub-Committees Chairs for Planning/Economic Development and Quality of Life Updates: There were no committee reports on this occasion. Committees will meet jointly in November to select their Chairs.

ECCAB Vice-Chair Curtis Watkins gave a progress update on his proposal for community outreach "listening sessions". Hampshire Greens and Cloverly/Stonegate were presented as possible locations. He also gave an overview of an online survey developed to gain community feedback on County services and areas of need. A motion was made and approved to implement his suggestions.

Adjournment: This meeting adjourned at 9:21pm.